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Queensland Independent Education Union

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Call for removal of Executive Director of Anglican Schools Office

The Queensland Independent Education Union (QIEU) has called for the resignation or removal of Head of Brisbane’s Anglican Schools, Gilbert Case, following heavy criticism of him by the Anglican Church’s sex abuse report.

QIEU General Secretary Terry Burke said it was inappropriate for Mr Case to continue in that particular position in the light of the criticisms made of his handling of student complaints against paedophile teacher Kevin Lynch, while Mr Case was the headmaster of St Paul’s school Bald Hills

“If the Anglican Church hopes to restore public confidence in its ability to protect children in its care it needs to ensure those in positions of authority will respond to allegations of sexual abuse in a prompt and appropriate manner,” Mr Burke said.

The report of the *Board of Inquiry into Past Handlings of Complaints of Sexual Abuse in the Anglican Church Diocese of Brisbane* said the student complaints of sexual abuse by school counsellor Kevin Lynch “were not handled fairly, reasonably and appropriately”.

The Board criticised Mr Case for “erroneously and untenably” dismissing the complaint of the initial student despite it resulting in police charging Lynch, who subsequently suicided.

It also criticised the manner in which Lynch was eulogised “in generous terms” at the public funeral memorial service and the school’s failure to make a prompt public statement and apology or to carry out a thorough investigation of the complaints to find out the full extent of what had occurred.

Despite the public outcry over his handling of the complaints of sexual abuse at St Paul’s, Mr Case was nonetheless promoted to the position of Anglican Schools Office executive director three years ago by then archbishop Peter Hollingworth.

“It is difficult to understand how the Anglican Church can hope to maintain any credibility about their ability to deal with child sexual abuse by those in positions of trust and authority, when the person heading the Anglican schools has demonstrated his failure to deal with such complaints,” Mr Burke said.

“In the absence of a resignation from Mr Case from the position, the Archbishop should act decisively to terminate his appointment, and thus restore credibility to the position of executive director of Anglican schools,” he said.

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